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Zeichen/Ref./Réf. 79 606 a/scho	Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°/Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°. 99118064.7-2305-
Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire United States Surgical Corporation	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

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REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D,A	US 5 707 380 A (HINCHLIFFE PETER W J ET AL) 13 January 1998 (1998-01-13) * column 4, line 56 - column 5, line 16 * * column 6, line 22 - column 7, line 52 * * figures 1,3A,4 *	1,2,4,8, 9	A61B17/115 A61B17/11 A61B17/128
P,A	EP 0 885 595 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORP) 23 December 1998 (1998-12-23) * the whole document *	1-13	
O,A	US 5 762 256 A (ALESI JR THOMAS W ET AL) 9 June 1998 (1998-06-09) * column 10, line 26 - line 57; figures 4,5 *	1-3	
A	US 5 443 198 A (VIOLA FRANK J ET AL) 22 August 1995 (1995-08-22) * column 7, line 7 - line 41; figure 1 *	1,2	
O,A	US 4 700 703 A (RESNICK SEMION ET AL) 20 October 1987 (1987-10-20) * column 4, line 59 - column 5, line 20; figures 1,3,4 *	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	BERLIN	1 November 2000	Ducreau, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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